



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

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GOVERNOR

THOMAS A. DESJARDIN
ACTING COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT #VII.C.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas A. Desjardin, Acting Commissioner*

DATE: January 14, 2015

SUBJECT: Receipt of the State Review Team Report of Findings from the University of Southern Maine (USM) School of Education and Human Development State Program Approval Visit

BACKGROUND: The University of Southern Maine (USM), School of Education and Human Development (SEHD), requested a campus visitation to review, for renewal of State program approval, both its initial and continuing educator preparation programs that lead to certification in Maine.

The Teacher Education Department is responsible for two initial certification delivery systems: the undergraduate-graduate Teachers for Elementary And Middle Schools (TEAMS) and the post-baccalaureate Extended Teacher Education Program (ETEP). Currently, these two degree programs are nationally accredited by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC), which has, since the last USM on-site visit, merged with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). The ETEP, Special Education, and the new Undergraduate Pathways (that replaces the TEAMS program) have been included in the TEAC Inquiry Brief and its associated appendices.

In addition to these SEHD degree offerings initial certification programs in Art Education and Music Education are accredited by discipline specific, national accrediting agencies. Pathways to initial certification that are new since the 2009 state approval visit are: the Lewiston-Auburn College (LAC) Pathways; the Early Childhood program at LAC; and the Montessori Early Childhood Teacher Education Program. It is the SEHD's intention that these new programs will be approved for integration into the unit's initial teacher certification offerings.

An on-site state program approval visit to USM was conducted from noon, Sunday October 26th to noon, Wednesday October 29th, 2014. Concurrent with the state team's visit a national, TEAC team conducted its review of the ETEP and TEAMS programs for renewal of national accreditation. The TEAC team was on the USM campus from Tuesday, October 28th to Thursday, October 30th. While the two team visits overlapped the Teacher Education Department's Inquiry Brief, along with its associated appendices submitted to TEAC, also served as documentation for state team considerations.

While the joint state and national teams collaborated with one another during their on-site visits, the state team conducted its review of the ETEP and TEAMS programs, as well as the other unit degree offerings (as identified below), to affirm their continued compliance with Chapter 114, Unit Standard One – *Pre-Service Candidate, In-Service Teacher, School Building Administrator, and District Level Administrator – Performance, Knowledge, and Dispositions*.

This assessment is the subject of the state team's Report of Findings which is being submitted, this date, for receipt to the State Board of Education. It is intended that the Team Report will be held in abeyance by the Board until the TEAC national accreditation decision has been rendered and delivered. Both of these reports

will then serve to inform the Board's decision regarding state program approval for the ETEP and TEAMS programs.

The other initial and advanced educator preparation programs leading to certification in Maine, not being considered for national accreditation, were also assessed by the state team for their compliance with all applicable Chapter 114 standards. The programs reviewed for state approval were as follows:

Art Education	Music Education
Counselor Education	Educational Leadership
School Psychology	Literacy
LAC Pathways	Early Childhood at LAC
Montessori Early Childhood	
Teacher Education	

RECOMMENDATION:

That the State Board of Education grant renewal of state program approval for the following University of Southern Maine (USM) educator preparation programs: Art Education, Early Childhood, Extended Teacher Education Program (ETEP), Educational Leadership, Literacy, Montessori Early Childhood Teacher Education, Music Education, Special Education, Undergraduate Pathways, Counselor Education, Literacy Education, and School Psychology.

[It is understood that this report is to be held in abeyance until TEAC has made its national accreditation decision and that, when this has occurred, the State Board will then take into consideration both the State Team Report of Findings as well as the TEAC notice of accreditation to inform the Board's decision-making as regards the renewal of state program approval for the USM educator preparation programs.]

*Presented by Angel Martinez Loreda
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